



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



TWO MORE SOUTH DAKOTA BRIDGES TO BE DEDICATED

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting two State Bridge Dedication Ceremonies to honor Army Combat Veteran Staff Sergeant Jeremy Vrooman and Marine Combat Veteran Lance Corporal Kenneth Jamerson.

The Jamerson ceremony will be held Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 1:00 pm (CT) at the Orange Striped Gym in Little Eagle (11905 SD HWY 63). The South Dakota Grand River Bridge at Little Eagle will be dedicated to Jamerson, of Little Eagle. Jamerson died April 1967, at the Da Nang Hospital in Vietnam from injuries received when a land mine exploded while he was on patrol.

The Vrooman ceremony will be held Saturday, July 17, 2021, at 1:00 pm (CT) at the Sioux Falls Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #1 (9700 E. HWY 42). The South Dakota HWY 42 Bridge east of Sioux Falls and west of Rowena will be dedicated to Vrooman, of Mitchell and Sioux Falls. Vrooman deployed March 2003 to March 2004, and June 2008 to July 2008 in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While serving in Iraq July 15, 2008, Vrooman's quick thinking and tactical abilities helped members of Pale-horse Troop to survive a lethal explosion. Vrooman entered an abandoned building first to secure the area before the rest of the team. Without hesitation he signaled his team to exit the area and the building exploded. His sacrifice saved the lives of his troops from the blast, but not his own.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

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SOUTH DAKOTA BRIDGE DEDICATED TO SPC MARK HORNER

On July 3, The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony honoring Combat Veteran SPC Mark Horner.

The South Dakota HWY 20 Bridge over the Lake Kampeska outlet was dedicated to Horner, of Watertown. Horner was killed in action on February 15, 1970, when he encountered hostile forces while on a combat operation in Vietnam near the Cambodian border.



A BIG SHOUT OUT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION

On Flag Day, the Department of South Dakota American Legion was awarded the National O.L. Bodenhamer Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the department whose standing is No. 1 on the Flag Day (June 14) membership report!

This trophy is awarded annually to the department designated to lead the parade at the next national convention. It is limited to the 52 departments within the United States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Congratulations to the South Dakota Legionnaires, Posts, and Districts! What a great accomplishment!

SECRETARY WHITLOCK ATTENDS AMERICAN LEGION STATE CONVENTION

SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock attended the American Legion State Convention in Huron June 26.

Whitlock thanked the Legionnaires for their continued support of our veterans and their families and provided an update on the Department. Whitlock also informed attendees of the applications and burials stats for the new state veterans cemetery.



TURNWALL NAMED NEW DAV COMMANDER

A new state-wide slate of officers has been elected by members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of South Dakota, at their 81st convention business meeting in Sioux Falls.

State Commander—Dick Turnwall of Piedmont—DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11

Sr. Vice Commander—Dan Francis of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

1st Jr. Vice Commander—Christine Speirs of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3

2nd Jr. Vice Commander—Mark Wolf of DAV Aberdeen Chapter No. 13

Treasurer—Gene A. Murphy of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Judge Advocate/Inspector—Robert Hill of DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22

The following Commander appointments were also made:

Adjutant—Marty Pennock of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Chaplain—Gaylord Helmbrecht of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Historian—Dan Francis of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Turnwall has been a member of DAV since 2012. He was born in Aberdeen and raised on a small grain and cattle farm near Leola. He entered the U.S. Navy in March of 1968 and served on active duty for over 30 years. Turnwall served 15 years as a Seabee Equipment Operator and U.S. Navy Diver. He was then commissioned as a Civil Engineer Corps Officer serving another 15 years in that capacity. During his time in the U.S. Navy, he completed numerous overseas deployments to many locations in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

Those deployments included almost two years in Vietnam.

The highlight of his career was

two years as Commanding Officer for the Underwater Construction Team Two, home based in Port Hueneme, CA.

Turnwall is also a life member of American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Military Officers Association of America.



GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW VA CBOC IN RAPID CITY

SDDVA Field Service Officer Will Huffmon attended the groundbreaking ceremony last week for the new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Rapid City. The new CBOC will be located on the east side of Promise Road off of Catron Boulevard and Mt. Rushmore Road.

This state-of-the-art facility will include a range of new capabilities not seen at the previous clinic like women's care, mental health, and physical therapy.

Work on the new VA clinic is expected to be completed by 2023.



DAV SPONSORED WOMEN VETERANS RETREAT

MIND
BODY
SPIRIT

DAV Sponsored Women Veterans Retreat:

FREE for Women Veterans

Sit, relax, talk, and share at the first DAV Women Veterans Retreat. Enjoy indoor/outdoor activities, wellness workshops, and lots of "me" time while connecting with other women Veterans.

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3j38BSX>

Where: The Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD

When: August 13th-15th, 2021

Arrival: 4pm on August 13th

Departure: 1pm on August 15th

Eligibility: You must be a woman Veteran

Participant Limit: 20

For more information contact the DAV HQ at 605.332.6866.



REGISTER
TODAY!

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Department of Veterans Affairs



VETERANS SUICIDE AWARENESS RIDE 13-15 JULY, 2021

"Never Quit On Life"

13 July • KLND Radio Program

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. • Local Veterans and Representatives from Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 July • Sitting Bull Monument, SD and Cannonball, ND

Horseback Riders depart • Meals will be provided.

15 July • All Nations Veterans Cemetery

The Vietnam Vets Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club to meet at Prairie Knights Casino (West parking lot) at 11:00 a.m.

ALL Riders Welcome (no registration) 12:00 p.m. Kickstands up.

Horseback Riders & Motorcycle Club arrive.

1:00 p.m. • Veterans Stand Down & Meal.

Motorcycle Club Ride Coordinator

• John Pretty Bear, ph. 701.455.0886

Horseback Ride Coordinator from Sitting Bull Monument

• Phil Bird Horse, ph. 605.845.2123

Horseback Ride Coordinator from Cannonball

• Volney Fast Horse, ph. 701.426.8737

For more information please call 701.854.8564

**22 VETERANS
COMMIT
SUICIDE
EVERYDAY**

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

IT'S YOUR CALL

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

Veterans Suicide Prevention
"Operation ZERO"



Stop Sign Shape – Veterans Suicide needs to Stop
Stars – each branch of Service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard)
Dog Tags – The pride as Veterans that we never stop carrying around with us.
The Veteran kneeling – represents each of us
Color Red – for the blood shed
Black – We will mourn their loss should we fail to support them
Motto – Take the pledge to never quit on myself and fellow Veterans

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 15—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LCPL Kenneth Jamerson—Orange Striped Gym (11905 SD HWY 63)—Little Eagle—1:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 17—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SSG Jeremy Vrooman—Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 1 (9700 E. HWY 42)—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 17—Tribute to Fallen Soldiers—Military Heritage Alliance Building (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Doors open at 5:00 pm (CT)—Social—6:30 pm (CT) and Dinner—7:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 21—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Military Heritage Alliance Building—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
- Jul 24—Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100th Anniversary Commemoration—Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Aug 14—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PVT Richard Bertram—Colome American Legion Post (208 Main Street)—Colome—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 16-18—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
- Aug 21—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PFC Robert Rand—Parker Community Building (299 N. Main)—Parker—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 23—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser at Barrel House (4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls
- Aug 23—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—CPT Charles Lane—American Legion Post 183 (330 W. Yankton Street)—Yankton—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 30—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PVT Bruce Ruby—Scherr Howe Event Center (212 Main Street)—Mobridge—10:30 am (CT)
- Sep 2-6—South Dakota State Fair—Huron
- Sep 2—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
- Sep 2—Salute to Veterans Program at the SD State Fair—Freedom Stage—10:30 am (CT)
- Sep 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Herbert Lyman and T/SGT James Lyman—Thunder Hawk American Legion Post — Thunder Hawk—10:00 am (MT)
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—9:15 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:30 pm (CT)
- Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8
- Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:00 pm (CT)
- Oct 23—Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Dec 14—Governor's Budget Address
- Dec 18—Wreaths Across America—South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—11:00 am (CT)

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